trains by private parties keeping in view increasing operation of carrying goods through containers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and names of the parties to whom permission for operating container trains are being proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All applicants who deposit the requisite registration fee and fulfill the minimum criteria of experience and turn-over/net-worth etc. as per the prescribed policy will be permitted. The registration is open from 16.1.2006 to 15.2.2006.

Transforming Kotdwara as state of the art railway station

†85. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an announcement of transforming Kotdwara railway station under Uttaranchal State into state-of-the-art railway station was made by his Ministry;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Kotdwara railway station is a 'D' Category station. For further development of this station, a work costing Rs. 68.37 lakhs was sanctioned in 2003-04 and has now been completed in 2005-06.

Crimes in trains

†86. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents that have occurred in the railway compartments during the last two years in which passengers were thrown out of the compartments and misbehaved and women passenger molested by the railway personnel and security personnel;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the concrete steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents;

(c) whether Government compensate the losses sustained by the passengers during the railway journey;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would launch an insurance scheme for the passengers, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of incidents of throwing out of passengers from compartments, misbehaviour with passengers and molestation of women passengers by Security Personnel and Railway Employees reported during the last two years i.e. 2004 and 2005 over Indian Railways are as under:—

Year	No. of incidents in which passengers were thrown out from the compartments		No. of incidents of misbehaviour with passengers		No. of incidents in which women passengers were molested	
	Security Personnel	Railway Employees	Security Personnel	Railway Employees	Security Personnel	Railway Employees
2004	3	1	5	3	1	3
2005	5	2	4	5	2	4

(b) Stern action has invariably been taken against Security personnel as well as Railway employees found responsible for such acts. Cases have also been instituted against them in accordance with provisions of law.

Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police. However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been

empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more manpower and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

(c) and (d) Under Section 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989, Railways are liable to pay compensation for loss of life or injuries to passengers who become victims of untoward incidents such as terrorist acts, violent attack, robbery, dacoity, rioting, shootout or arson by any person in or on any train carrying passengers; or the accidental falling of any passengers from a train carrying passengers.

(e) Railways already have a Passenger Insurance Scheme, wherein insurance cover of Rs. 4 lakhs is provided to dependents of bona-fide rail passengers in case of death and Rs. 32 thousands to Rs. 4 lakh (depending on the gravity of injury) to the passengers who sustain injuries as result of train accident or untoward incidents.

Railway bridges damaged due to floods

†87. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway bridges which got damaged due to floods during the year 2005-06 in various States of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the work regarding repair and reconstruction of the said damaged railway bridges has been completed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Total 6 No. of Railway bridges were damaged due to floods in 2005-06. State-wise distribution is as under:

Karnataka—1 bridge,

Gujarat—1 bridge,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.